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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT; INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT ARMS TRAFFIC; MEASURES TO CURB THE ILLICIT TRANSFER AND USE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS; CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal: revised draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and 47/52 J of 9 December 1992 and 48/75 H and 48/75 J of 16 December 1993,

Considering that the circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitutes a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and is a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the rest of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations Consultative Mission sent to Mali by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving the United Nations Consultative Mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. Also welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative;

3. Thanks the Government of Mali for the appreciable help which it has given to the Consultative Mission and welcomes the declared readiness of other States of the subregion to receive the Mission;

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his action, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, by providing the necessary assistance to Mali and to all other States concerned which request it, with a view to curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection;

5. Invites Member States to take all necessary measures to curb the illicit circulation of small arms, in particular by halting their illegal export;

6. Also invites the international community to give appropriate support to the efforts made by the affected countries to suppress the illicit circulation of small arms, which is likely to hamper their development;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on the question at its fiftieth session.